GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)
General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Education

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A STREET SCENE IN PEKING (See Bulletin No. 4)

Streets are wider in the "Northern Capital" than in most Chinese cities, where vehicles and beasts of burden are unknown, and coolies do their work instead. The donkey, the mule and the horse, and curious animals that look like a cross of all three, are plentiful in Peking

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is prepared and printed by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.

The Bulletins will be sent direct to teachers, upon application, or superintendents and principals may apply for teachers. In the latter method of ordering names of teachers must accompany the request, to avoid duplication. Only one copy per teacher can be supplied.

Requests should be addressed to Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

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Fiume: Object of Rival Claims

THE exploits of Gabriele d'Annunzio at Fiume, recalling the adventures of a medieval knight, keep that ancient city in the public eye.

If Trieste was the Bremen of Austria, Fiume was the Hamburg of the Hungarian Kingdom, a close rival for the brisk Adriatic trade of the period before the war.

Fiume is another of those footholds on the eastern Adriatic where Italians clung fast despite the steady influx of Slavs in the interior, and, in this case, even into Fiume itself. Thus the city bears evidence of early Italian culture, it figured as a potent Slav factor in the turmoil of Balkan politics, and it felt strongly the influence of Hungary upon its thriving industries and fast-growing commerce.

Once Was a Royal Free Town

Magyar gerrymandering caused it to be annexed to Hungary in 1870, despite the protest of Croatia to which it had belonged since the revolution of 1848-49. Tender consideration for its value as a seaport, rather than for its citizens, prompted its establishment as a royal free town, making it a geographical slice of about seven square miles cut out of Croatia.

Despite the Hungarian interest in the city its pre-war population was 90 per cent Italian and Slav, with the Italians slightly predominant. Only about half the remaining tenth were Hungarians. The Slavs included Croats, Serbs and Slovenes. As important to Hungary as is New York or Boston to the United States, Fiume's total population is not much greater than such suburbs of those American ports as East Orange, N. J., or Newton, Mass.

Fiume is situated on the northeast shores of the Gulf of Quarnero, only seventy miles, by rail, southeast of its trade rival, Trieste. Across the bay is the popular summer resort, Abbazia, famed for its evergreen laurel and profusion of roses, to which tens of thousands of visitors formerly thronged each summer.

Has Three Harbors and Extensive Quay

The older town, distinctively Italian, is built on the hillside, overlooking the gulf. The newer city lies nearer the waterfront. There are three harbors. The largest, accommodating 150 large vessels, is protected by a breakwater half a mile long. The quay is nearly two miles long.

Before the war Fiume's manufacturing plants included a government tobacco factory, the Whitehead torpedo works, a rice-shelling factory, a petroleum refinery, and many smaller plants, among which were saw mills and paper mills. Its fisheries constituted an important industry. It exported sugar, grain, flour, horses and timber.

Fiume had a governor, who was a member of the upper house of the Hungarian parliament, four representatives in the lower house, and two representatives in the diet of the Croatians and Slovenes.

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STREET SCENE IN AUSTRALIA

This might be "Any Street, Any City, U. S. A.," but it is not. It is a typical busy thoroughfare of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. (See Bulletin No. 5)

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"Go West," Said Greeley: "Spread Out," Says Eliot

HOW are the evils that go with city crowding to be avoided in the face of the increasing congestion of American cities?

By making the cities more like the country, is the gist of one noted thinker's solution of that question. Despite the steady procession of country folk to cities, their new environment lacks many of the benefits of the places they came from, in his opinion.

Charles W. Eliot, world-famous educator, in a communication to the National Geographic Society says:

"In order to cure the destructive evils of present urban life and the factory system, it will not be enough to restrict the vices, to diminish the pressure of poverty, to prevent destructive diseases, and prolong the average human life. The human environment must be not only negatively but positively improved; so that the whole people may have the opportunity to cultivate healthy tastes and interests, to acquire just ideals of pleasantness and beauty, and to learn the value toward tranquil happiness of that living with nature which city congestion has within a single generation made almost impossible for multitudes.

Week-End in Country Is Beneficial

"While the exclusion of bad influences needs to be unremitting, the good influences—fortunately for crowded urban populations—need not all be incessantly in action. An occasional holiday in a city park or garden, a week-end in the country now and then, or a fortnight's vacation in summer may make deep and lasting mental impressions, and supply both children and adults with wholesome material to fill the mind and direct its energies for months and years.

"Hence the importance of better city and suburban planning, of public reservations of all sorts in city and State, and of national parks and monuments. All these modes of public action tell not only on the physical well-being of both urban and rural populations, but on the mental training of children and on the cultivation in the whole population of thoroughly healthy spiritual interests and uplifting enjoyments, both individual and social.

Evils of City Life Are Destructive Forces

"The present evils of city life and the factory system—bad conditions which civilization has itself created—have developed their destructive forces in this country in spite of the schools and churches and of free political institutions, and in spite of many happy influences from art, poetry, music, and the drama. Clearly, society needs to develop a new and better environment for the general life—an environment favorable to both bodily and mental health and to the attainment of genuine happiness—not of mere momentary excitements, pleasures, and gratifications, but of solid contentment, and the lasting satisfactions of life enjoyed in quietness and peace. What are the means of compassing this end?

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Charlemagne Once Its Captor

Originating in Roman times, Fiume was destroyed by Charlemagne in 790. The Franks ruled it for a considerable period. Then it passed to feudal lords until the Emperor Frederick III made it a part of Austria.

This emperor, who was Frederick V, as archduke of Austria, was the son of Ernest, the "man of iron," and Cymburga, a Polish woman, from whom the Hapsburgs are thought to have inherited the protruding lower lip which sometimes became a disfigurement. His long and inconsequential reign is recalled chiefly because he puzzled lexicographers by leaving on his books, pottery, and by having inscribed on his tomb, the initials "A. E. I. O. U.," a promissory note of future Austrian greatness which Frederick did little to realize. The most generally accepted explanation is that the initials stood for the Latin, "Austriæ Est Imperari Orbi Universo," meaning, "All the earth is subject to Austria."

Charles VI proclaimed Fiume a free port. Maria Theresa first united it with Hungary. Successively occupied by the French and British, it reverted to Austria and later was restored to Hungary before it was ceded to Croatia.

Bulletin No. 1, October 4, 1920

POLISH JEWS LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME (See Bulletin No. 3)

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Poland Once the Savior of Europe

POLAND, whose history is tragedy, and whose people have been called "Children of the Sun," plays no new role when she seeks to stop the onslaughts of the Bolsheviki, for it was she who once stayed the march of the Turk across Europe.

A communication to the National Geographic Society sums up Poland's sad and eventful history as follows:

"In size she outranked nearly every nation of the continent. Russia alone of the European nations is larger than Poland was at her greatest. In population she stood at the forefront of Europe. Only Russia and Germany had greater populations before the war than are to be found in the lands that once were Poland; for unpartitioned Poland had an area of 282,000 square miles, and the lands that once lay within her boundaries support a population of approximately 50 million. In area she was as large as the former German Empire, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, and Denmark together; larger than Great Britain, Italy, and Greece combined; larger than Austria-Hungary and Servia in one. Within what were her boundaries there dwells a present population larger than the combined populations of Great Britain and Belgium; larger than those of France, Belgium, and Holland together; and matching that of the old Austria-Hungary.

Country Was Three Times Partitioned

"Poland was three times partitioned, and these partitionings were readjusted between the partitioners by the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Where the original partitions had given Russia 181,000 square miles, Prussia 54,000 square miles, and Austria 45,000 square miles, the reapportionment of the Vienna Congress gave Russia 220,500, Prussia 26,000, and Austria 35,000 square miles. Much of the land which Russia secured, and particularly Kiev, had been identified with Russia generations before.

"Poland, in the days of her greatest area, extended from a point within 50 miles of Berlin, on the west, to the meridian of the sea of Azov on the east; on the north it reached nearly to the Gulf of Finland, and on the south down to the Khanate of Crimea.

"What we now know as Russian Poland is that neck of territory stretching westward between the Prussias and Gálicia. This territory has an area almost exactly equal to that of New York, yet, in spite of the fact that its extreme southern boundary lies north of the latitude of Winnipeg, its population is as great as those of New York and New Jersey combined.

Limits of Russian Poland

"Russian Poland, in this limited sense, consists of a great plain, somewhat undulating, with an average elevation of about 400 feet, sloping upward toward the highlands of Galicia on the south and toward the swelling ground paralleling

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"The readiest means is good planning of city, town, and landscape—first applied to areas still open, and then gradually to areas already occupied in undesirable ways. The new planning must take into account the interests of the whole community, as well as the interests of individual owners, the social or collective interest always prevailing.

Some Concrete Objects to Be Sought

"The immediate objects to be sought are more light and air for dwellings, offices, shops, and factories, and thus a spreading out of cities; the transfer of factories to suburbs and to country sites along the lines of railway; the multiplication of playgrounds and open decorated areas, and above all the attachment of a piece of arable or garden ground to every family dwelling.

"The collective force of the community must further supply the means of making rural and landscape pleasures occasionally accessible to city populations by means of parks and gardens which illustrate all forms of open-country beauty and permit the occasional enjoyment by city families or larger urban groups of the outdoor pleasures which woods, shrubberies, gardens, and broad fields can give. All city dwellers greatly need these occasional delights, and Americans more than any other people; for they have become accustomed to an indoor life, and have come to rely on electricity as a substitute for sunlight, and mechanical ventilation as an equivalent for fresh air."

Bulletin No. 2, October 4, 1920

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A CAKE STAND IN PEKING

The carved tube is a piece of bamboo into which the cash is thrown as purchases are made

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Peking: A City Within a City

UNTIL recently Peking, capital of China, with its 700,000 people, was one of the least known of the great cities of the world. It took the Boxer rebellion and the siege of the legations in 1900 to open the long-closed doors. Recently it has been in the headlines because of revolutionary disturbances.

Peking is a "city within a city." The Chinese city, built in 1543, is the commercial center. The Tatar city dates from 1267 and includes the famous "Forbidden City," of which the Dragon Throne of the Son of Heaven, Emperor of the Middle Kingdom, is the center. The throne is of rare wood exquisitely carved. Just back of it is a screen of golden lacquer so dainty in design and execution that it gives the appearance of golden lace. Around this throne room are arranged the palaces, shut in by purple walls.

Scarlet Bridal Chairs Adorned With Bacon and Sugar

The Chien-men street bisects the Chinese city from the South Gate, where the railway enters, to the principal gate in the wall separating the Chinese from the Tatar city. Along this main thoroughfare there passes a continuous throng. There, too, may be seen the springless passenger cart, with its blue arched roof and yellow wheels, corrugated metal tires, and its awning sheltering driver and mule, or the Mongolian camel, the ship of the Asian desert, and, interesting above all, the scarlet bridal chair with its piece of bacon and parcel of sugar hung on the back as an offering to the demons who might molest the bride while on her journey. Officials hurry back and forth in the gorgeous chairs, their coolies making a great din as they seek right of way. Noisy vendors of amulets, and medicines of ground tiger bones to strengthen faint hearts, and extracts of rat meat to make the hair grow, add to the din.

On the east side of this roadway is an enclosure of about one square mile, which contains the Altar of Heaven, surrounded by shrines and temples, the most important of which is the circular, three-roofed marble Temple of Heaven with pillars of Oregon pine and roof of deep blue porcelain tiles.

Near the ornate Temple of Heaven is the Temple of Confucius, "the most holy ancestral teacher."

The Washington Monument of Peking

The Washington Monument of Peking is the famous thirteen-storied Buddhist pagoda from the summit of which a fine view of the city may be had.

Peking claims the oldest daily newspaper in the world, the Peking *Gazette*, compared with whose age the London *Times*, with its hundred years, is in its infancy. For six dollars a year, a Pekingese can read all that his government desires him to know as to its actions, or he can rent his *Gazette* for the day and return it. In former years newspapers were found on the walls in the form of

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the Baltic on the north. It joins the lowlands of western Germany with the great plain of western Russia. Its rivers are slow and sluggish, with their mouths often but a few dozen feet below their sources and seldom more than a few hundred feet below. Their basins intricately interpenetrate one another, and the frequent inundations of these basins have covered them with a very rich alluvial soil.

"Russian Poland usually has a winter somewhat similar to that of New England. There is an even cold, with not a great deal of snow, but often with razor-edged winds from the northward. The rivers of this region usually freeze over about the middle of December, and the Vistula is under ice for approximately 80 days during the average winter.

"In the eighteenth century, when the city of Warsaw, next to Paris, was the most brilliant city in Europe, this flat plain was unusually rich in herds and geese flocks, though almost bare of manufactures."

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Preserving a "White Australia"

DECLARATION by the prime minister of Australia that his country was determined to maintain its traditional policy of a "White Australia," a policy as firmly grounded there as is the Monroe Doctrine in the United States, again turned the attention of the world toward that remote and unique continent.

"It is not that Australia despises immigration," explains a communication to The National Geographic Society from Herbert E. Gregory. "It is rather that she has clung to her ideal of a homogeneous people of British origin.

"Australia is disappointed that of the four large areas which offer congenial homes for people of European blood—namely, Australia, Canada, United States and Argentina—Australia alone is passed by, while the other three favored regions have received Europeans by hundreds of thousands. She saw the United States receiving in one year (1913) 1,197,892 people from abroad, more than the entire net immigration to Australia for the preceding fifty-three years, and in another year (1910) enrolling four times as many people born in the United Kingdom as were living in Australia.

Unique in Its Physical Isolation

"Australia is the most isolated of all inhabited continents and is remote from the center of all of the world's activities. Northward the sailing distance to Japan is approximately 3,000 nautical miles; to India, 2,500 miles. South America is 7,000 miles to the east; and Africa an equal distance west.

"From London to the capital of Australia ships by the Suez route traverse approximately 13,362 miles of water and by the Panama Canal 14,582 miles. From California ports the routes via Samoa, or Fiji, or Tahiti cover a quarter of the circumference of the earth. Australia's only large civilized neighbor within a radius of 1,000 miles is Java.

"The continent, lying thus far outside the ordinary routes of travel, is rarely visited by Americans. For most of us knowledge of this fascinating land is obtained by a study of a few pages in the back of school geographies—pages descriptive of 'Australia and New Zealand' and accompanied by a map of 'Australia and the Islands of the Pacific' on a scale too small for the recognition of significant features.

Fourteen Times the Size of France

"Australia is a large country. It is about fourteen times the size of France or pre-war Germany, twenty-five times the size of Italy, Hungary, or Ecuador, and two and one-half times the size of Argentina, its chief competitor in the Southern Hemisphere. Its area is equal to three-fourths of Europe, one-third of all North America, and one-fourth of the British Empire.

"The continent is almost exactly the size and is nearly the shape of the United States.

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posters. They were printed from a large block of wood upon which the intricate characters had been cut by hand.

As early as the seventh century A. D. visiting cards were in common use in China, and, to the American girl who sends to her friends two small cards tied with a bit of white ribbon, announcing her engagement, it will be interesting to know that when a Chinaman desires to marry, his parents inform a professional "match maker," who selects a bride for the young man. This match maker, a woman, then calls upon the parents of the young woman and presents his card, upon which has been inscribed his ancestral name and the eight symbols which denote the date of his birth. If he is accepted, the young woman's card is sent in return and if the oracles forecast good for the union, details of the engagement are written on two large cards and these are tied together with red silken cords.

The Bucket Brigades Traced to China

The "bucket brigade" of our small western towns may have had its distant origin in the "water associations," or volunteer fire departments, of Peking. In Peking "soup kitchens" rice gruel is served free to the poor.

In the heart of the Tatar city is another enclosure—the "Forbidden City," in which stands the Imperial palace, distinctive in China because it is faced with yellow porcelain. Surrounding the palace are the gardens, reception halls, pavilions, and offices formerly used by the Emperor in conducting the affairs of the Empire.

"Prospect Hill" would be interesting to those who went to the "movies" to keep warm, during the recent coal shortages. The hill is a huge mound of coal which has to provide fuel in time of siege, and it is now covered with a grove of beautiful trees.

The Pekingese are consumers only. The trade of the city is small, although it is open to foreign commerce. The famous Grand Canal which connects it with the rich provinces of South China greatly facilitates the transportation of rice and other products.

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"The traveler in search of duplicates of the Canadian Rockies, the Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, of Norwegian fiords and Alpine scenery, need not visit Australia. Its mountain scenery is that of the southern Appalachians, the White Mountains, and the low ranges of Arizona. Its plains and plateaus are comparable with those of the Rocky Mountain foothills and the arid expanses of Utah, Idaho, and Oregon. The blunt granite cap of Mt. Kosciusko, 7,328 feet above sea, is the culminating point of land. A half dozen peaks reach the height of Mt. Washington, and something like one per cent of the entire land area rises as high as the Catskills.

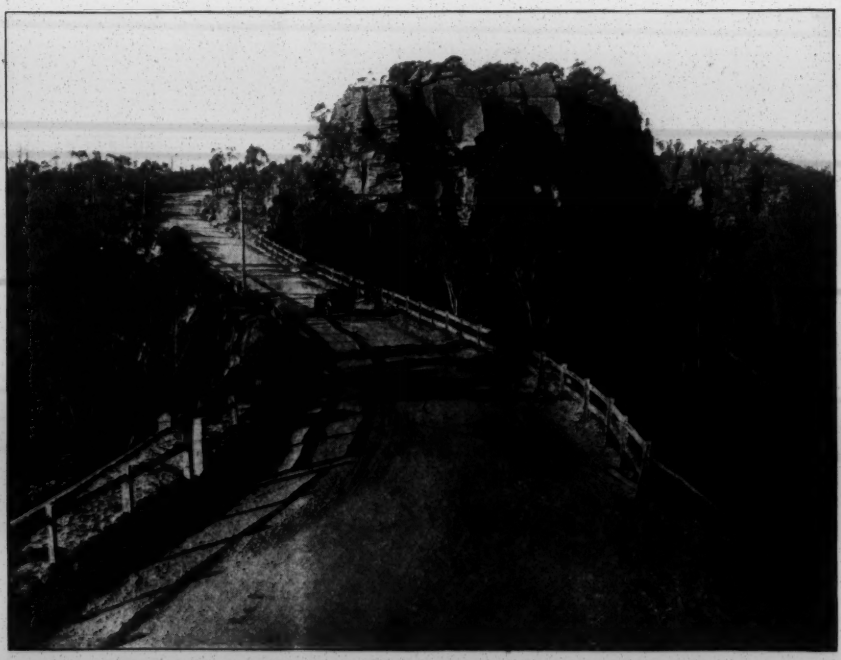
Remained Unknown Until 150 Years Ago

"That the size and form of a land-mass nearly as large as Europe should have remained unknown until 1770 is most remarkable.

"Curiously enough, the establishment of the first colony of the new-found continent is an episode in the history of the United States. It was proposed by the British Government to utilize the land as a home for the 'Loyalists' (Tories) who found life in the American Colonies uncomfortable at the close of the Revolutionary War. They were to be supplied with land and money, and Malay slaves or English convicts were to be provided as laborers.

"Fear of the French fleet and the removal of many Tories to Canada led to the abandonment of this scheme, but another use for Botany Bay was soon discovered. Place must be found for undesirable citizens, who, before the Revolution, had been sent to America at the rate of one thousand a year, and New South Wales met the requirements. The history of Australia begins with the year 1788, when ten hundred and thirty-five convicts under military escort landed at Sydney Cove."

Bulletin No. 5, October 4, 1920



MOUNT VICTORIA PASS: BLUE MOUNTAINS, NEW SOUTH WALES

Most Australians thoroughly appreciate their good roads. Only a short while ago, over the same route which an automobile now traverses in one short afternoon their fathers spent six weeks in hacking a way through the dense bush for their creaking bullock carts to negotiate